

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for holding an annuloplasty ring, comprising:

5 a holder body configured to the annuloplasty ring;

a handle coupling configured to couple the holder body to a handle; and

10 a release mechanism coupled to the handle coupling to release the handle from the handle coupling.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 including a spring configured to bias the handle coupling into a lock position.

15 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the button is configured to transmit a force on the handle coupling against the spring toward an unlock position.

20 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling includes an opening formed therein to receive a tip of the handle.

25 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the tip is locked within the opening.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to couple to a knob at a tip of the handle.
- 5 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holder body includes an opening to receive the handle.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is non-circular.
- 10 9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is tapered.
- 15 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein a surface around the opening is raised to provide a gripping surface.
11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to slide within the holder body in a direction generally parallel with a plane of the holder body.
- 20 12. The apparatus of claim 1 including a handle.
- 25 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein a tip of the handle includes a knob configured to engage the handle coupling.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the release mechanism comprises a button.

15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle
5 coupling comprises a clip.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the clip
is slidable within the holder body and provides a
locking and release mechanism.